1. A method of eliciting in a vertebrate a protective immune response against a bacterium of the genus *Chlamydia*, the method comprising administering to the vertebrate a composition comprising a carrier group coupled to an oligosaccharide obtained from a chlamydial glycolipid, the composition being administered in an amount sufficient to elicit a protective immune response against the member.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the chlamydial glycolipid is glycolipid exoantigen.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the carrier group is coupled to the oligosaccharide by a linker.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the linker is 2-(4-aminophenyl)ethylamine.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the carrier group is coupled to a mixture of oligosaccharides obtained from the glycolipid.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the mixture of oligosaccharides comprises oligosaccharides having a molecular weight of from 800 to 3000 daltons.

7. A composition comprising a carrier group coupled to an oligosaccharide obtained from a chlamydial glycolipid.

8. The composition of claim 7, wherein the glycolipid is GLXA.

9. The composition of claim 7, wherein the carrier group is coupled to the oligosaccharide by a linker.

10. The composition of claim 9, wherein the linker is 2-(4-aminophenyl)ethylamine.

11. A method of purifying a chlamydial glycolipid, the method comprising providing an aqueous composition that has been in contact with cells infected with a bacterium of the genus *Chlamydia*, the aqueous composition comprising a chlamydial glycolipid; centrifuging the composition for at least 2 hours at 100,000 g or more to form a pellet comprising the chlamydial glycolipid; and collecting the pellet, thereby purifying the chlamydial glycolipid.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising centrifuging an aqueous mixture at 8000 g or less to produce the aqueous composition.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising resuspending the pellet in a reaction mixture and digesting the reaction mixture with DNAse, RNAse, and proteinase K to form a digested mixture.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising subjecting the digested mixture to affinity chromatography using a monoclonal antibody against chlamydial glycolipid exoantigen.

15. A purified chlamydial glycolipid exoantigen, wherein the purified chlamydial glycolipid exoantigen is free of other components as determined by sodium dodecylsulfate gel electrophoreses and silver staining.

16. A method of eliciting in a vertebrate a protective immune response against a bacterium of the genus *Chlamydia*, the method comprising administering to the vertebrate a composition comprising a carrier group coupled to an oligosaccharide corresponding to a chlamydial glycolipid, the composition being administered in an amount sufficient to elicit a protective immune response against the member.

17. A composition comprising a carrier group coupled to an oligosaccharide corresponding to a chlamydial glycolipid.